(c) whether any steps had been taken by Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government has approved a project for setting up of "State Data Center" for the State of Kerala in March 2008 with a total outlay of Rs.55.68 crores to meet the capital and operational expenses over a period of 5 years. An amount of Rs.11.63 crores has been released so far in this regard.

Surplus staff with BSNL/MTNL

1540. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of officers working with BSNL and MTNL on deputation have been repatriated by Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the MTNL and BSNL are presently overloaded with the staff; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to provide Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) for the surplus staff with MTNL and BSNL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) and (b) Sir, no mass repatriation of officers working with BSNL and MTNL have taken place in the recent past.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. The expenditure of BSNL on manpower is about 33% of its total income as compared to 5-8% in case of its competitors. BSNL has engaged M/s 'Boston Consulting Group (BCG) for advising and providing handholding support in identifying problems and developing strategy keeping in view the changed market conditions.

The expenditure of MTNL on manpower is about 45% of its total income. In order to rationalize manpower, MTNL has introduced Voluntary Retirement Schemes (VRS) during the years 2004, 2005 and 2006 for different groups of employees. The details are as below:

Scheme	No. of employees who accepted VRS
VRS-2004 (Non Executives)	1951
VRS-2005 (Executives Grp.B only)	604
VRS-2006 (Non Executives)	1382
TOTAL :	3947